7/2/72

Dear Howard,

I haven't yet awakened Lil. He mate is ready, I'm sipping my strong coffe and was reading, and I decided to let her sleep a bit longer. I'm writing you instead of reading or writing other letters I should for a reason that may not be immediately apparent but I think will be clear enough. The idea came to me while I was shaving, one of my brief daily periods of "thinking time".

I think you will understand most of what I wrote you in the long letter designed to help you put this whole mess and your position in it into perspective. You will realizes that my suggestions about biblical reading were not for solace but for understanding, for the philosophy. You will, if you follow my suggestions, come to the time and place for everything thought. One thing I didn't cover is the possibility you may think I have taken a fatalistic, passive attitude, given up, so to speak. Not a bit. As I told you, it is beyond our power to prevent the impending evil. The thing that distinguishes Cyril aside from his personal ambition, is that he can be most hurtful precisely because he is most competent and of deservedly high reputation, jow even more because he heads the forensic-sciences outfit. I am merely awaiting the time it might be possible to do soemthing to undo the evil. It may not be possible. If it is, I'll be as ready as a single uninfluential man can be.

I told you to sit back and take stock, to relax and let what will be be, not to get youself tied in knots as your confession about being torn indicates is developing. You can do it. I have, and if I can, with all the many things that bear down upon us, you can. It is a state of mind I do not always achieve, sometimes don't even seek, but this is potentially important enough, and I had help. I think I was relaxed enoug, as much as I could be, without this help. My letters, for example, can give you a reading. I didn't lay any of the three out the way I could have and as I think all three expected. If I was scorninful and heaped ridicule on Jerry, I was without the heat and anger I think he expected. And I didn't go into any of the personal things that perhaps, in his interest, I should have. And strange as it may seem to you, with all he has done, in general and to hurt Lil and me in particular, this letter is designed so that with the passing of time and the coming of his personal crisis, you can help him. Vrummy, arrogant and slef-seeking a bastard as he has been, he is worth it if he can be helped to become what he has not yet become, a responsible man.

The thing that helped me relax more was a delight. I don't think you've been here when our friends the McDonalds came before. Perhaps you have. Ian is No. 2 man in the Tims of London Washington Bureau. For some reason I have always had friends there, none as close and Ian and his wife, Crispina (Chris, too). I think it began with Louis Heren's decency and concern. For a reason I don't now remember, long before I could get WW printed, I went to see him. He tried to help me in many ways, including by getting his own publishers to print it. It is he who spoke to Wiggins after the nasty thing the Post did to me. Well, in the wmyserious way in which things sometimes work, they decided that yesterday would be a good day to visit. It was Ian's day off and he had the grass mowed, tis. Chrsi had a friend, fellow Phillipino professional (I would assume sociologist or psychologist) visiting. Lil is particularly fond of Chris, so I felt the timing couldn't be better. Ian said to tell Lil to make no preparations. Lil was having a bad day, the headaches lingering and a bit of unsteadiness in moving. They came so well prepared, they wouldn t even let Lil set the table for out late dinner or wash the dishes, and Chris had perpared a variant of shiskkabob based on her knowledge of cooking of the orient that was simply fantastic. They even brought the wine.! (And I have backgrounded Ian for the time this all comes out. There will be one story that will not misdirect, and with Louis Heren now the Tomes' Foreign Editor, it will not be corrupted in London.) So, they had hardly left when I dozed off. We decided to see the final part of Possessed, which was on Public TV. I think it took five minutes and I was dead to it. Lil wanted to keep knitting, so when I started to come to-and I never really did- it was about 2 1/2 hours later and she was looking at some mivie and knitting. I staggered to bed and was immediately asleep again. And I slept until what for me is late, 6. When it happens, I awaken stiffer than usual, so I wont go for my walk until after Lil is up. This was a fortunate accident, I am telling you that you can relax and get away from all the mess and I had to a sufficient degree before the McD's came. I haven't taken a razor in three days and I'm supposed to ad lib.

What, if anything, any of us can do to help Sylvia now I don't know. If it seems like it can mean anything for her to know I am not bitter, I am not. I don't know whether it is her realization of what she has done that triggered this thing. I have no way of knowing if she has come face to face with realization of what she had been doing to me personally and to the work we could have done collectively. When I am not pretty certain of what to do, I prefer to do nothing, to wait, something entirely foreign to my character when I was your age. If you come to understand that there might be something I can do that can help her, let me know. She will come apart. This thing has been rotting inside her for years and it is complicated by her to me clear emotionaly problems quite visible in their manifestation if not their cause the first time I saw her.

With Jerry it is easier. We have relatively simple things (compared to SM) to address, but in doing this we must also bear in mind that he has pre-existing problems that are largely responsible for what he now is, for his sudden egp tripping, his new and exalted concept of self, his incredible ambition. We can't ackle the causes. He alone cane. We cna address the manifestations, and this may help him get to the roots, probably in the broken marriage, his disgust at his father. I think kinds often develop resentments when their parents split. In Jerry's case, his father give him legitimate cause for resentment, rather, did as a kid. I don't think it is as clear with his step-tather or mother. So, what can we do, when the time is ripe, to help him? I don't know when this time is. Perhaps it is later, when this is all over, perhaps it is the first opportunity he provides when he calls you again. I'm jot inclined to thing so, but you should be able to estimate by his words and manner, for you now know him and his attitudes well enough. I think t o approach to take (and this is but advisory) is to take what he has done apart. Begin with the Lifton. Use Lifton. Go into the papier-mache trees, the Brown & Root tunnels (I know I told Jerry all about them, but he may not permit himself to remember). Take it step by step, up to the last of which I do know, the dohble-formulated conspiracy with Johnson, in one form with Dulles and the other with Rusk, Lifton had them secretly scheming all over Texas for the week prior to the assassination and what he claims is airtight proof that they did the conspiring. If I didn't tell you, he got Thornley to execute a spurious affidavit putting the hat on the innocent John Rene Heindell as the guy with whom LHO spoke Russian, etc. The mysterious wonder is that Garrison didnst go off half-cocked on this, which would have been a disaster and a tragedy, and that he never charged Thornley with the clear perjury for which Lifton was responsible.

What you will be doing to and with Jerry is taking his judgement apart and addressing whether or not he was in a position to make any judgement. He doesn't know enough about either the subject of the people, so you will also be addressing what in the hell he was doing and why he should have been doing anything. Let me briefly switch to being a shrink. I think that there was a foster-father relationship between us and that subconsciously he had come to transfer to me the resentment he feels at his own natural father, who is off his rocker pretty much, but bright.

Having addressed whether he should have ever considered himself capable of making a decision and the state of his ignorance, the utter irresponsibility of his saying or doing ANYTHING, I suggest you they show him that with the state of his ignorance, and assuming that he felt he really did have to do something when SM went to pieces and Cyril got so baughty, he managed to do the worst of the things that could have occured to him if he had thought at all. First of all, on the basis of what he knew,he could have turned this over to you. You have the factual background. Next to you, he knows of Dick. He knows Gary, and he knows Gary is fairly stable. He has to have known that Lufton is both insane and wretchedly crooked. If these alternatives didn't satisfy him, remember, he never once raised any of these questions with me. His subconscious, not his conscious, prevented this, for his subconscious told him what he was doing. Remember also that he was here after the rotten thing he did and behaved as though nothing had happened. Isn't that incredible to you? He stayed with his sister, that is the only difference. She was leaving for San Diego, where Paul had already gone to his KGB job. Why, he should ask himself, given belief in the purity of his motive, should he not have asked me who he should have asked to breif Cyril. He could have told a convenient lie that he'd have known I'd accept, for I had repeatedly warned him not to overburden Sylvia because of her exhaustion and asthma, and he cpuld have said she was too overworked, too asthmatic, or both. Of could he not have thought of the Dallas people? He does not know them, but he knows the high regard I have for Mary. You may think of others, I don't want to take the time, but I think you

can understand what I'm getting at. Make him think or and analyze what he has done and try and keep it balanced or juxtaposed with his professional responsibilities, what would have happened if he permits himself this kind of personalization, irrationality or whatever you chose to desribe it as in his work. Give him some standrad, some basis of comparison. In making him analyze, there is no reason why you can't be part of it, going over it with him step by step.

If this is to succed, you will have to understand that underneath the seeming open generosity, Jerry has a special kind of slefishness. I'll try to illustrate, and understand this is not complaint. He has, superficially, been kind to me. In no case has it made any difference to me or my work. It has, in fact, been costly to me. When I stayed withnhim in New York, he was kind. When he took me to dinner, that too was kind. But in all cases, I had alternatives. He did nothing that would not have happened anyway. So, while I recognize he was going to cost and trouble, if was not saving me a cent, not giving me what I would not have had anyway, and whether or not he realizes it, there was for him something in it in his eyes. He used to come here with the useless that cost him money and it made him feel good, like he was carrying his own weight. He was fond of San Gria, therefore he was doing us a great favor in pissing away money on it. Lil detests it, He did the same with Israeli brandy, which she also dislikes. He was insensitive or he'd have known that she not only does not like sweet things by their taste but considers them not healthy. She has told him often enough. He was doing this for himself, not us. If he felt he wanted to bring us gifts, he knows out tatse. Can you understand the psychology involved in not bringing us what he knew we liked but in bringing us what he likes?

And, knowing our circumstances, if he was interestedin us, not himself, was it not better for us to have given Lil the cost of these worh less things, to pay for his own food and that of those he brough (I think the largest number was seven or eight)? He even had to be waied on and cleaned up after. He scattered his stuff all over everything, shoes in the middle of the floor, bags opens and sprawled where people walked. This is not, I think, mere untidiness, and he does let his own place slop up until he has no choice but to clean it up. It is a subconscious demand for attention.

So, while he has probably told himself countless time that with all he has done for me I am aningrate, he has never done anything but take time, cost money we don't have, make new and needless worries, and reduce the work I could have done. He simply can't understand the realities. Even with Robert's fine work on Z, that today has little or no meaning. Knowing, for example, that there was firther editing is important, but it is also repetition. We knew it before. It is good to know, but not essential. And Jerry had nothing to do with that. I put them in touch with each other, and I'm now sorry. He has not been a good influence on Robert, who also has emotional problems from childhood.

I don't reall know if the crisis in Jerry will come. Perhaps it is here. I don't really know if he will respond, but perhaps the realizations will come on their own. He is bright, but the mind and its processes are tricky things. Evaluate what I have said on your own, decide for yourself what you will or will not do, and don't be troubled by whether or not the decision is the correct one. The primary consideration should be, is this an added burden I can assume? Don't over,oad yourself.

The only intercourse I might henceforth permit myself to have with him would be in an effort to straighten him out. I don8t want it. I don't think Lil woild find a visit from him tolerable. And there can, for me, be no comparison with what I felt forced to do to her, having Salandria here. That served a purpose, getting through with the Halleck proceeding. Everything with Jerry is negative.

Learn also that he is helpful in ways he wants to be, not in the ways help is needed. I know of no deviation, from the current fiasco back to the San Gria. So he is not helpful. In minor, mechanical things, like xeroxing the unessential, he has done things that in the overall have little meaning.Remember the carbonpaper bit with me and his subsequent explanation? He was embarrassed when I nailed him so he talked himself into an immediate justification.

I lost the capacity for hate and vindictiveness in World War II, after thinking through almost throwing a real scum and nuisance overboard when he became intolerable. It is the last time I was violent. I have never since lost my temper that way. As you can now see, I was aware of Sylvia's attitude from almost the first, but it did not interfere with my willingness to work with her if that would be possible, even if at the same time she never did a single thing to help me and went out of her way not to when it occurred and when it was possible.

So, if at some point as her condition develope or changes, you can think of anything I can do to be of help to her, ask me and I probanly will. My decision at that time will not be determined by willingness but by two other things, my own feeling about whether it will or can help and what henceforth must be my primary consideration, can I take the time from what can serve constructive purposes. You are now beginning to get some notion of the enormous amount of time I have devoted to others over the years and what it could have meant to my own productivity if I had not. I have to learn from this all too, and the most obvious lesson is that cooperation is two-way. I will work with those who <u>do</u> work, will be unselfish only with those who <u>are</u> unselfish. I cangt undertake too much with Sylvia now. We also have similar and serious problems in addition to those of which you know because they are so visible. I know I can t undo what she has xxdone. I can say no more than that if I can be helpful, I will try. Meanwhile, I repeat you must remain detached and emotionally uninvolved, in your own interest and in the interest of doing whatever may at any time xxyx seem possible. Your own interest, your own emptional stability, muts now be the primary consideration in your own thinking and acting. This is not selfishness, it is the real unselfishness. Learn from my errors, too. All of this miserable business can be an important part of your own growth, development and maturity, not just an immediate pain. Learn from it, benefit from it. But don't let it dominate you and please try to see that in essence it is as it always was outside your control or ability to seriously influence. Lil is now up and about, so I leave you and join her. Keep the faith, baby! All is NOT lost. And if it were, it was not your fault, not in any way. Don't let this destroy your faith in people. Let it instead open your eyes. And your mind. And if at any time you want independent opinions you think you can't get from me or your dad, turn to Dick. Best,